

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

MAY, 1943

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO

VOL. 10, NO. 9

Dear Fellow Workers:



This is the month when officers change. New leaders come in and old leaders go out. The new leaders will meet the challenge of their opportunity for service with enthusiasm, but if the parent-teacher association is to meet its obligations and achieve success in its various undertakings the leaders must have the cooperation of all the members.

For those who are "privates in the ranks" and for those who are about to go back to being privates, I should like to say a word in behalf of all service in the parent-teacher association, regardless of where it may be. The service dignifies itself because of its fine objectives. It does not need honors or office to give it meaning and worth.

We serve where we are needed. One time it is in an executive capacity; next time it is as a member of a group whose importance is heightened by the cooperation it generates. Because the paramount things in parent-teacher work are the service to children and the furthering of the ideals of our organization, there are no demotions; there are only changes of emphasis. We take turns in carrying certain responsibilities.

In the weeks just ahead many of us will shift jobs. Whether we shift into jobs of leadership or back to the ranks, we have essential service to give. Never in the history of civilization has it been so important what people do for and with and about the world's children.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia Kletzer

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN

A release of the Children's Bureau addressed to "Mothers and Fathers of the Nation's Wartime Children, Everywhere, U.S.A.," carries a strong plea to parents not to neglect the spiritual and emotional welfare of their children in the pressure of wartime duties. "If ever children needed mothering and fathering, they need it now . . . A child's spirit can be undernourished as well as his body . . . Your job is vital."

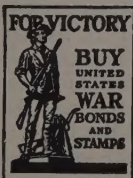
THREE OBSERVANCES

The month of May will be marked this year by three important observances — Child Health Day, National Family Week, and Good Will Day. Child

Health Day is May 1 and is immediately followed by National Family Week, May 2 to 9. Good Will Day is May 18. All three offer many opportunities for P.T.A. participation and cooperation.

PRAISE FROM CHILDREN'S BUREAU

Miss Katharine Lenroot, chief of the Children's Bureau, has expressed deep appreciation of the material on juvenile protection featured in the *National Congress Bulletin* for April. A new government publication on juvenile delinquency has been announced and will be available shortly.



RADIO BROADCASTS TO FEATURE NEW PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL CONGRESS

Over NBC Network

On May 15, from 1:45 to 2:00 p.m., Central War Time, the National Broadcasting Company will allot time for a broadcast in which Mrs. William Kletzer, outgoing president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, will introduce the new president. "The P.T.A. Meets the War Challenge" has been suggested as the title of the broadcast.

Over Mutual System

On May 16, from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m., Central War Time (Mutual Broadcasting System) the Northwestern University Reviewing Stand will feature the newly elected president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, together with other outstanding authorities, in a discussion of "Youth Delinquency in Wartime."

FLAG DAY, JUNE 14

Executives of national organizations, among them the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, are being asked to cooperate in the observance of Flag Day, which, it is presumed, will be celebrated as usual on June 14 by proclamation of the President of the United States. "June 14 will have a special significance in 1943 . . . The Office of Civilian Defense has assembled materials that relate specifically to Flag Day and broadly to all the common problems involving our country and our Allies." These materials are available now.

SCHOOL LUNCH SCORE CARDS

All local associations that have carried on a school lunch project should request score cards from their state congress offices. Score cards should be filled in at once and returned to the state office. Only those associations that return the score card are eligible for the Service Certificate.

War Program

P.T.A.'s are doing their part to win the war. The questionnaire recently sent from the National Office reveals some interesting data on what is actually being accomplished by the nearly 3,000 local units that have returned it. Answers to this questionnaire have been received from every state in the Union and from the Territory of Hawaii. Over 100 answers have come from each of the following states: California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

COOPERATION AT A HIGH LEVEL

Cooperation is stressed in almost every instance. Many units report, "We cooperate in every way we can." This is not to say that activities carried out exclusively by the P.T.A. are neglected; many such activities are noted. But the cooperating strength of the P.T.A. is made available, as always, to like-minded agencies and organizations working in a common cause.

VARIATIONS IN THE PROGRAM

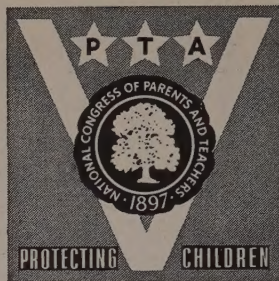
Necessarily, differences between states and even within states are clearly evident. Local conditions and needs will always vary, and P.T.A. activities vary accordingly. In some cases, for instance, the state board has encouraged promotion of a program of identification and registration of children; in others, supervised play or day care for the children of working mothers may receive the strongest emphasis. This too is strictly in line with the long-range P.T.A. policy of shaping the activity to meet the need.

HEALTH AND IMMUNIZATION

A great many parent-teacher members have taken and are taking courses in nutrition, home nursing, first aid, and nurses' aide service. Many of these courses are those sponsored by the Red Cross, but in a number of instances the parent-teacher associations have organized their own. Immunization against communicable disease, which has always been an important part of the Summer Round-Up program, is being stressed. The vital importance of conserving the nation's health and strength for the difficult days that may lie ahead is strongly emphasized by every P.T.A.

DAY CARE FOR CHILDREN

Broadly speaking, the question of day care for the children of working mothers



AS SHOWN BY REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

has not yet progressed in many areas beyond the survey stage. Surveys to determine the need have been conducted by a number of P.T.A.'s. Usually, when the need is found great enough to warrant the establishment of a nursery or some other form of child care center, this is considered a matter calling for the combined efforts of several community agencies and organizations.

VICTORY GARDENS

There is much enthusiasm about Victory gardens, both at home and at school. No particular urging is needed in this direction, as both children and adults are already interested and eager to go to work. P.T.A.'s are performing a valuable service by furnishing authentic information about seeds and gardening and are responsible for the promotion of many school gardens and other group gardening activities. Special efforts are being put forth by P.T.A.'s in cities, where the natural advantages for gardening are not always the best.

EVACUATION OF CHILDREN

Units on the east and west coasts are interesting themselves in plans for the evacuation of children to safe territory should this become necessary. This, of course, means actual evacuation. In other sections of the country plans in this area are confined chiefly to air raid shelters and similar places of safety.

IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

These activities are carried out with varying frequency, according to local need. The usual procedures are fingerprinting, with careful accompanying records, and the supplying of an identifying tag to each child. Sometimes the program is carried out entirely by the P.T.A.; in other instances the need is emphasized at meetings and the further responsibility is left to the school or to the parents.

of the P. T. A.

THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

There is a great variation in the school lunch program in different regions. Some schools have no facilities for serving lunches, so that the penny milk program constitutes the chief effort in this field. Much ingenuity, however, has been displayed by local P.T.A.'s in meeting this situation, and in some instances the association not only sponsors a well-balanced school lunch for the children but sends the menus home, so that the parents may see what their children are receiving.

SAFETY

Safety is usually given special attention. Sometimes this finds expression in the encouragement of school patrols, sometimes in general safety education. Safe bus transportation for school children is a topic in which great interest has been shown.

RECREATION

In spite of all efforts, recreation is being more or less curtailed in some regions. Many P.T.A. groups are doing outstanding recreational work through carnivals, hobby shows, community sings, pot-luck suppers, etc., and many others are cooperating constantly with the USO to supply wholesome recreation for the men in the armed forces, especially in regions near military encampments.

OTHER WARTIME ACTIVITIES

Volunteer services of many kinds are reported, including aid with rationing, Red Cross work, salvage campaigns, the sale of war bonds and stamps, the donation of blood to a blood bank, precautions against air raids, and the like. Some of the associations have invested in war bonds, and both bonds and stamps are often sold by members co-operating as individuals.

A VIVID PICTURE

Altogether, the war activities questionnaire is resulting in a vivid and memorable picture of parent-teacher wartime service throughout the nation. More, the questionnaire itself has proved to be stimulating and helpful. Some presidents report that their answers do not give a complete idea of the work their units are doing because their communities are so well organized that separate wartime activity by the P.T.A. would result in duplication of effort.

INSTITUTES ON PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

THE National Education Association, which during the five years just past has conducted more than 200 institutes on professional and public relations in the teacher training institutions of thirty-six states, is urgently inviting parent-teacher cooperation in making this summer's institutes the most effective in the history of the organization. The reason for this urgency is, of course, the threatened position of many of our schools under the restrictions and losses imposed by the war.

Our schools must go on. Yet 100,000 teachers have left their classrooms since the attack on Pearl Harbor; 360,000 are paid less than \$1,200 a year, and the cost of living has increased by 22 per cent. What this will mean to education unless prompt measures are taken for school and teacher protection is plain to be seen. Teachers have seen it and are banding together to maintain their professional status and to help obtain the desperately needed aid that will enable the schools to carry on adequately during the war.

The economic problem, grave as it is, will be but one of the matters discussed at this summer's Institutes. Professional ethics and the democratization of the teaching profession will be stressed throughout, and, as always, the betterment of teacher-public relations will receive emphasis.

State parent-teacher congresses have taken a significant part in these Institutes from the beginning. Their cooperation this year is, in a manner of speaking, already under way, for they are working steadily toward equalized educational opportunity. The importance of safeguarding education is being constantly pointed out in all parent-teacher publications.

Altogether, the Institutes on Profession and Public Relations offer an excellent opportunity to work with a great cooperating organization in a high and common cause. We are sure that those responsible for the conferences will be able to count upon P.T.A. cooperation.

—MRS. WILLIAM KLETZER

DESIGN *for* SERVICE



ON ALL SIDES men and women are still asking themselves and each other, "What can we do to help win the war?" And, even as they speak, one of the greatest of all opportunities lies at hand, ready and available. This opportunity is membership in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, through the facilitating medium of the local P.T.A.

Why are not more people seizing this unparalleled opportunity? Is it because we as parent-teacher members and workers are not showing them, by every activity we sponsor and every word we speak on the subject, what a supreme opportunity this membership represents?

We Can Offer Them Facts

We should have no difficulty in demonstrating the value of parent-teacher work. There is our Summer Round-Up program. Through the work of the thousands of committees that have carried on this major health project, many a soldier in our armed forces has come to his present strength and power. There is our school lunch program, which offers thousands of school children a nutritious hot lunch every day. There is our steadfast championship of the equalization of educational opportunity and of the maintenance of sound educational standards and adequate school facilities. Who shall measure the final importance of this work to the American destiny?

Even if this were all, it would make a highly creditable showing. *But it is by no means all*; it is scarcely more than a beginning. Add to it our thousands of activities in nearly two dozen separate fields, ranging over the entire area of child welfare and home and community service, and you have something vital—something that cannot be estimated in figures or evaluated in words—something that has helped to keep America strong, with spirit free.

We Can Show Results

We hear much today of education for democracy. We hear much of planning for a better world in the future. But what group is actually doing more to

educate for true democracy—what organization has shown a surer touch in the shaping of postwar plans—than has the National Congress of Parents and

Teachers? Through the activities of its 28,000 P.T.A.'s; through its publications, through its nation-wide projects, this organization has won wide and well-deserved acclaim. Its national officers have a part in the history-making wartime conferences of the nation. Parent-teacher participation in vital forum discussions and consultations; government use of parent-teacher publications; government requests for parent-teacher cooperation in many and diversified fields of action—these things demonstrate beyond the shadow of a doubt that parent-teacher membership is supremely worth while.

This membership, indeed, is a badge of honor. Shall we not wear it proudly, so that everyone we meet may know what 2,612,345 parent-teacher members stand for and why?

If we do, there can be small doubt of the result. Enthusiasm begets enthusiasm—an old saying but a true one. Helpfulness is contagious. If we will, we can bring home the meaning of parent-teacher membership to the man on the street, and to the wife of the man on the street, in the remotest corners of these United States.

We Can Share What We Know

There is no argument about the importance of safeguarding America's children. Everybody knows that this is vital. Everybody does not know, unfortunately, the power and extent of the parent-teacher program and the direct bearing it has upon the welfare of American youth.

Let's tell them. Let's help them to realize what every parent-teacher member knows—that, no matter how long they live and no matter how far they travel, they'll never find a bigger or a better chance to help win the war and plan for a world of peace than the opportunity afforded them by membership in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Your P.T.A. may wish to secure enough copies of "Design for Service" to give one to each member. Extra copies are available at the rate of 25 for 10 cents, postpaid. In quantities of 100 the price, postpaid, is 35 cents. Order from the National Office.

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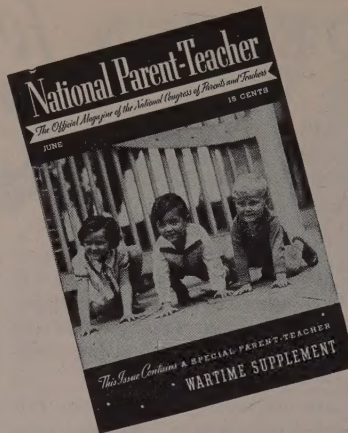
Volume 10 MAY, 1943 Number 9

Published monthly from August through May, bi-monthly June and July, at 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Subscription price: 20 cents a year. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office, Chicago, Illinois, Jan. 18, 1941. Additional entry at Aurora, Illinois, Dec. 21, 1939. Under Act of March 3, 1879.

CONGRESS CONTACTS

The cooperative contacts of the National Congress since the last *Bulletin* listing (in December 1942) cover a wide range of current interest. National officers and chairmen have represented the National Congress at meetings of the following organizations:

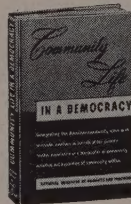
- British Columbia Parent-Teacher Federation. Mrs. John Hayes, national chairman, committee on Publicity.
- National Housing Agency, Conference on Homes Use Program. Mrs. William A. Hastings, first vice-president.
- Academy of Political and Social Sciences. Mrs. William Kletzer, president.
- National Conference for Cooperation in School Health Education. Mr. Howard V. Funk, second vice-president.
- American Country Life Association, Youth Section. Mrs. Harry M. Mulberry, national chairman, committee on Reading and Library Service.
- National Educational Planning Commission. Mrs. William Kletzer, president, and Mrs. J. W. Bingham, vice-president.
- U. S. Children's Bureau, Commission on Children in Wartime. White House, Washington, D. C. Mrs. William Kletzer, president.
- U. S. Children's Bureau, General Advisory Committee on Protection of Young Workers. Mrs. William Kletzer, president.
- Joint Committee of the N.E.A. and the N.C.P.T. Mrs. William Kletzer, president; Mrs. James K. Lytle, treasurer; and Mr. Howard V. Funk, second vice-president.
- Joint Committee with the Girl Scouts of America. Mrs. William Kletzer, president; Mrs. Clifford Thompson, vice-president; Mr. J. W. Faust, national chairman, committee on Recreation; and Mr. Howard V. Funk, second vice-president.
- National Council on Parent Education. Mrs. Clifford Thompson, vice-president.
- Advisory Committee on Home Safety. Mrs. William A. Hastings, first vice-president.
- Office of Price Administration (regional meeting). Mrs. Paul H. Leonard, vice-president.
- Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services, Social Protection Section (regional conference). Mrs. Harry M. Mulberry, national chairman, committee on Reading and Library Service.
- Cooperating Committee on School Lunch. Mrs. Paul H. Leonard, vice-president.
- Associated Country Women of the World, United States Liaison Committee (Inter-American conference). Mrs. William A. Hastings, first vice-president.
- Hearing on Federal Aid for Education. Mrs. William Kletzer, president.
- American Home Economics Association. Meeting on Community Aspects of Proposed Training of High School Students for Child Care Through the High School Victory Corps. Mr. Howard V. Funk, second vice-president.



- Are you making maximum use of this vast publications service?
- Are you telling your members about this body of authentic parent-teacher literature?

FOR EXAMPLE—

Have you publicized the new book, *Community Life in a Democracy*? Have you passed around copies of *War Handbook*, *Wartime Service Packet*, *The P.T.A. in Community Service*, *A Report of Progress, Findings, Program Planning*, the *National Congress Bulletin*, the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*, and other Congress publications? Have you ever discussed these important and valuable parent-teacher publications with the members of your executive committee and planned ways to increase their use and circulation still further?



A WIDE and consistent use of the parent-teacher literature of your organization will possibly do more to increase parent-teacher cooperation than will any other project you can undertake. Recently, in a midwestern city, representatives of the city P.T.A. council and of a number of professional educational groups met to consider some problems that were creating misunderstanding and confusion. During the discussions one of the educators placed upon the table a *Parent-Teacher Manual*, a copy of *Guiding Principles*, a copy of *Projects and Purposes*, a copy of the *National Congress Bulletin*, and a copy

Madam President:

THE National Congress of Parents and Teachers, your national P.T.A. organization, makes no profit whatever on any publication it offers for sale. Its entire publications program is a *service* to your association and to the 28,000 other local units that belong to the Congress. The only reason it calls your attention to these published materials is to keep you informed and to help you to do a still better parent-teacher job.

of the *National Parent-Teacher* and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, may I say that if all of us here seated had been familiar with the content of these publications it never would have been necessary to call this meeting!" A dramatic few moments ensued. The parent-teacher leaders looked at each other. So did the representatives of the other groups. Then they settled down and decided that perhaps the best procedure for them to follow would be to publicize, widely and immediately, the parent-teacher literature already available on the subjects under such serious discussion.

Could such a thing happen in your city, your town, or your group? If it could, then perhaps you need a larger Publications or Magazine committee to help every member of your P.T.A. get the maximum benefit and information from every piece of parent-teacher literature printed.

In raising these questions with you, may we remind you to *check today* to see whether you have authorized your treasurer to order a copy of *Community Life in a Democracy* for your P.T.A. Bookshelf. And have you sent in your quota of subscriptions to your official magazine, the *National Parent-Teacher*?

BOTH FOR \$2 While the supply lasts!

A de luxe copy of *Community Life in a Democracy* and a subscription to the *National Parent-Teacher*. Make check or money order payable to National Congress of Parents and Teachers and mail to 600 S. Michigan Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

